



## Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

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December 01, 2015

The Honorable Board of Directors  
County of Los Angeles  
Regional Park and Open Space District  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS  
AVAILABLE TO THE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT  
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF A GRANT AMENDMENT  
FOR THE PLACERITA CANYON BRAILLE TRAIL PROJECT  
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$75,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, for a grant amendment to the Department of Parks and Recreation to supplement the Braille Trail Project at Placerita Canyon State Park.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Find that the recommended actions are within the scope of the Placerita Canyon Braille Trail Project that was found to be categorically exempt on August 19, 2014, by the Board under the California Environmental Quality Act.
2. Allocate an amount not to exceed \$75,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, to the Department of Parks and Recreation for a grant amendment to the Placerita Canyon Braille Trail Project.
3. Authorize the Acting Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as the Acting Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a \$75,000 grant amendment to the Department of Parks and Recreation for the Placerita Canyon Braille Trail Project if applicable conditions have been met; and to administer the grant amendment

as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$75,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition A), to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for the Braille Trail Project (Project) at Placerita Canyon State Park in the unincorporated community of Newhall.

On August 19, 2014, the Board awarded \$28,500 in the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992 (1992 Proposition A) Specified Funds to DPR for the Project. However, after commencement of the Project, the need for additional labor, materials, and related costs was identified. As a result, it is recommended that an additional \$75,000 be allocated to supplement the existing grant. The recommended additional \$75,000 will cover design, project management, and administration of the project as well as further renovation costs.

The Project develops a portion of the existing Heritage trail into Braille Trail by relocating the trail entrance area, creating Braille and interpretive signage, installing safety railing, and creating a panoramic relief of the natural area and miniature sculpture of the Oak of the Golden Dream. The total project cost is estimated at \$174,000. The recommended \$28,500 in 1992 Proposition A Specified Funds and \$75,000 in Specified Excess Funds will be supplemented with \$45,000 of Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) and \$25,500 of DPR In-kind Labor.

It is also recommended that the Acting Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Acting Director), in his capacity as Acting Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award the grant amendment and only if applicable conditions have been met. Applicable conditions include grantee qualifications, consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition A, and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project. It is further recommended that the Acting Director be authorized to administer the grant pursuant to the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects previously approved by the Board.

In order to be eligible to utilize Excess Funds, a grantee must have expended or committed to expenditure all of the funds allocated to that grantee in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 (1992 and 1996 Propositions A). Of the total allocated in the 1992 and 1996 Propositions A to DPR, \$312,949 remains unspent. DPR is currently developing a project proposal for the unspent funds. As a result of the unspent funds, the Excess Funds for the Project will be awarded to DPR after the Board's approval of the recommendations, but will only be available to DPR for reimbursement of eligible Project costs when the unspent \$312,949 is also committed to expenditure through an executed Grant Project Agreement (Agreement). The Board's approval of DPR's project proposal for the \$312,949 will also be sought on a separate agenda item in the near future.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended actions will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by providing a wellness-themed recreational opportunity in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Sufficient appropriation for the Excess Funds grant amendment, in the amount of \$75,000, is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The 1996 Proposition A requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the 1992 and 1996 Propositions A expend or commit to expenditure all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. After the commitment of the \$312,949, DPR will meet this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition A provides a method for determining, each fiscal year, the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the 1992 and 1996 Propositions A. The recommended grant will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District County projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Acting Director would be authorized to award grants when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, the Board approved the Procedural Guide to govern the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended grant as well.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

On August 19, 2014, the Board found the Project to be categorically exempt from the CEQA.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Acting Director, and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009, only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by RPOSD, but are required for the enhancement of safe and accessible recreational opportunities in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

### **CONCLUSION**

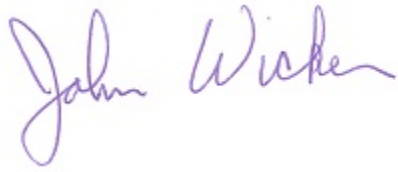
Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Programs Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Directors

12/1/2015

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "John Wicker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JOHN WICKER

Acting Director

JW:JB:WRO:sh

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors